ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MANAGERS

OF THE

APPRENTICES' LIBRARY COMPANY

OF

PHILADELPHIA.

Read at a Meeting of the Company, held at their Room, on the 9th of March, 1847, and published by their order.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRINTED BY JOSEPH KITE & Co.,
No. 50 North Fourth Street.

1847.

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TO THE

APPRENTICES' LIBRARY COMPANY

OF PHILADELPHIA.

THE Managers Report, that they have been engaged during their period of service in the successful prosecution of the objects of the institution; and have the pleasure of communicating to the company that its affairs are in a prosperous condition.

The judicious regulations that were established by the last Board of Managers for the admission of applicants to the use of the Library and the preservation of order, have been continued; and shortly after its organization, the present board adopted a resolution for the exclusion of all school boys excepting such as had previously been granted the privilege of obtaining books from the Library.

These measures have realized the expectations of the board, and have been apparent in the good order and decorum that have generally prevailed throughout the year among the boys frequenting the Library, and in the increased number of applications from those who are the legitimate recipients of its benefits—the apprentice boys.

The Managers have been solicitous to encourage this class of readers, and to offer them every inducement and facility to enjoy the advantages resulting from the use of the Library, as their claims are constantly growing stronger upon the liberality of the Company, as well as upon the benevolence of the community at large.

The board have felt the effects of the want of home government upon children and apprentices. The moral precepts coming from such a source as a mother or kind mistress, make a most salutary and abiding impression upon the minds of youth. The safe guards which her affectionate care and attention throw

around them, save the youth from the dangers arising from vicious associations or the mischievous and debasing consequences that result from spending their time in idleness.

To arrest, as far as was in their power, this growing deterioration of character in the youth of our city, the Managers have endeavoured to furnish them with such books as would suit their taste and at the same time convey good moral lessons, and have added to the shelves many of those popular works calculated to attract and interest them.

To increase their resources, and their means to facilitate this object, the Book Committee were authorised to examine the books in the Library with a view to dispose of all such as were found to be unserviceable. This labour has been performed; and including those disposed of towards the close of last year, upwards of two thousand volumes were selected, consisting of duplicates, incomplete sets, and many works that had remained untouched for years upon the shelves, and were otherwise useless or in bad condition.

Most of these have been sold or exchanged for others of much greater value, and available for the objects of the institution. The Managers can now safely say, that though numerically lessened, the Library contains a greater amount of useful, instructive and valuable reading, than at any former period. The committee are engaged in the preparation of a new Catalogue, which has been for some time much wanted, the last edition being entirely disposed of. It will be ready for distribution in the course of the present month.

The Girls' Library has received its share of attention; and the addition to its shelves during the year of many popular and instructive works, has secured the continued attendance of a greater number of readers than the previous year, embracing a much larger portion of those engaged in active business. With a view to make the institution more generally known among this class of readers, and to encourage them to apply for the use of books, the board authorised printed placards, containing the necessary information, to be circulated among the manufactories and stores, where young women are employed, and soliciting the influence of employers to encourage those under their charge to avail themselves of the opportunity offered to employ their

leisure time in the improvement of their minds. These efforts have been attended with success; and many have thus been made acquainted with the means whereby they can enjoy the advantages offered by the use of the Library.

It is desirable that a knowledge of the existence of a Girls' Library should be more widely disseminated; and every member of the company might assist in spreading the information by improving opportunities that offered, and otherwise aid in promoting the objects had in view in establishing this branch of the institution.

The shelves of the Girls' Library now contain nearly 3000 volumes, embracing an agreeable variety of entertaining and valuable reading.

The average number of girls using it during the year has been 241, while last year it was but 191. The number now receiving books is 240, and at the same period last year about the same number. The number of new applicants this year has been 215, last year it was 182. The whole number of books delivered from the Library during the year is 7150, and last year it was 5352.

The number of volumes in the Boys' Library is between 7 and 8000. The average number of readers has been 1098, last year 935. The number now using the Library is 1254, at the same time last year 1293. The number of new applicants during the year has been 1099, last year it was 1293. The whole number of books loaned during the year 26415, last year 25710.

The number of books added to the Libraries by purchase, exchange and donations, during the year, is 902, of which 513 have been appropriated to the boys and 389 to the girls. The number of books rebound has been 331, which is a larger amount than any previous year, owing to the very inferior manner in which books are now issued from the hands of the publishers. This will be an annually increasing source of expenditure.

The Proprietors have kindly extended the lease of the building now occupied by the company, which will expire in May next, for five years from that period, on the same liberal terms upon which they heretofore granted it; and the Managers have

had the exterior of it repaired and painted, which has added much to the sightliness of its appearance.

A few months since a legacy of 1000 dollars was bequeathed to the company by Thomas W. Goldtrap, a citizen comparatively a stranger to the Managers, it is a gratifying evidence that the Library has a strong hold upon the regard of our fellow citizens and that its usefulness is properly appreciated by many who are but little known to us.

Nothing has yet been realized from the legacies left to the company by Nathan Dunn and Elizabeth Greenfield.

The Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Loan held by the company which has been so long unproductive, now yields something to their income, and with the prospect of annually contributing to their resources will enable the future Managers still further to add to the attractiveness of the Library.

The accompanying report of the Treasurer exhibits the financial condition of the company and its transactions during the year.

There have been but 17 new members added to the company during the past year. As the annual contributions are one of the chief sources of income, the subject is brought to the attention of the meeting, as a trifling effort on the part of each member would enable him to add at least one to our list.

JOHN BOUVIER,
Chairman.

WM. R. MAXFIELD,
Secretary

Abstract of the Treasurer's Account.

Receipts.

Balance of cash on hand as reported Third mo. 9, 1846, -	$44 62
Annual contributions of members - - - - - -	510 60
One subscription of life member - - - - - -	25 00
Subscription for purchase of books by Society of Free Quakers (in lieu of rent) - - - - - -	100 00
Donation - - - - - - - - - - -	2 00
Dividends, interest and ground rent, - - - - -	445 56
Fines received and Catalogues sold at Boys' Library -	74 98
" " " Girls' " -	20 33
Fines received from Managers - - - - - -	6 86
For old books sold - - - - - - - - -	52 49
	$1282 44

Payments.

For purchase of books - - - - - - - -	$352 49
" salaries and services - - - - - - -	441 49
" binding books - - - - - - - -	138 94
" rent of library rooms (2 years) - - - - -	100 00
" painting - - - - - - - - - -	52 40
" carpenter's work - - - - - - - -	19 09
" printing - - - - - - - - -	44 35
" fuel and gas light - - - - - - - -	65 39
" party wall, adjacent to stair way - - - - -	36 72
" insurance on books and furniture - - - - -	12 00
" room com. for incidentals, &c., - - - - -	13 42
" balance due company - - - - - - -	6 15
	$1282 44

The undersigned having been appointed by the Board of Managers of the Apprentices' Library Company, to examine and settle the account of Samuel Mason, Treasurer, have attended to that duty, and having compared his payments with the vouchers therefor, find the account correct; there being a balance in his hands due the company (as appears by the foregoing statement) of six dollars fifteen cents ($6.15).

SAMUEL F. TROTH,
THOMAS C. GARRETT.
Committee.

Phila., Third mo. 9, 1846.

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